

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/801,840

Examiner

Devona E. Faulk

Applicant(s)

FUJITA, ATSUSHI

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 7/14/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7/14/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The applicant submitted corrected drawings to overcome the drawing objection asserted in the previous office action.
3. The applicant agreed to an examiner's amendment to place the claims in allowable form.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard V. Burgujian (Reg. No. 31,744) on 10/2/2006 .

The specification is to be amended as follows:

Page 10, line 26: after "above.", insert - - The terms "left" and "right" used herein to describe the left and right channels and corresponding features in the illustrated embodiments, are only relative terms and can be interchanged within the scope of the invention.

The claims are to be amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 3: after "terminal", insert - - , wherein one of the right and left signal channel terminals is connected to the ground terminal when a monaural microphone is connected to the microphone input terminal - - .

Claim 1, line 9: after "of", insert - - the - - .

Claim 1, line 11: after "result", insert - - , wherein the detected voltage of one of the right and left signal channel terminals is a voltage of the power supplied to the microphone resistance-divided by a power supply resistance and an internal resistance of the corresponding one of a right and left channel of the microphone when a stereo microphone is connected to the microphone input terminal - - .

Claim 2, line 2: before "voltage", insert - -detected --.

Claim 3, line 2: before "voltage", insert - -detected --.

Claim 4, line 3: before "voltage", insert - -detected --.

Claim 6, line 3: after "terminal", insert - - , wherein one of the right and left signal channel terminals is connected to the ground terminal when a monaural microphone is connected to the microphone input terminal - - .

Claim 6, line 6: after "converts", insert - - right and left - - .

Claim 6, line 6: after "signals", insert - - amplified by the microphone amplifiers - -

Claim 6, line 7: after "which", delete " uses the A/D converter to convert right and left audio signals amplified by the microphone amplifiers into digital signals and ".

Claim 6, line 17: after "result", insert - - , wherein the detected voltage of one of the right and left signal channel terminals is a voltage of the power supplied to the

microphone resistance-divided by a power supply resistance and an internal resistance of the corresponding one of a right and left channel of the microphone when a stereo microphone is connected to the microphone input terminal - -.

Claim 7, line 2: before "voltage", insert - -detected - -.

Claim 8, line 2: before "voltage", insert - -detected - -.

Claims 1-4,6-8 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claims 1 and 6, prior art, Matsumoto et al. (JP 08-293159) discloses a microphone input terminal having right and left signal channel terminals and a ground terminal; right and left audio signals input from the microphone input terminal (a microphone input terminal having right and left signal channel terminals and a ground terminal; a recording section which records, in a recording medium, right and left audio signals input from the microphone input terminal (sound recording section 14, paragraph 0033 under Detailed Description); a microphone power supply section which supplies power to a microphone connected to the microphone input terminal via the right and left signal channel terminals and the ground terminal ; a detection section which detects whether or not a voltage of one of the right and left signal channel terminals is less than or greater than a ground voltage, and provides a detection result; and a control section which control a recording operation of the recording section in accordance with the detection result. Prior art Yang, US6,748,085) discloses of detecting whether a mono device or stereo device by detecting whether or not a voltage is equal to a reference voltage (column 4, lines 47-48, and 65-lines 67). Prior art Colegrave et al. (US 6,711,268) discloses an automatic stereo/monaural headphone.

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Prior art Kim et al. (US 5,655,025) discloses a circuit for automatically recognizing and receiving mono and stereo audio signals. Prior art Masaki (US 5,642,424) discloses a device for connecting external sound generator. Prior art Adams (US 6,594,366) discloses a headset/radio auto sensing jack. Prior art Kurosawa et al. US 4,433,209 discloses a stereo/monaural selecting circuit. The prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose wherein the detected voltage of one of the right and left signal channel terminals is a voltage of the power supplied to the microphone resistance-divided by a power supply resistance and an internal resistance of the corresponding one of right and left channel of the microphone when a stereo microphone is connected to the microphone input terminal.

Therefore, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a sound recording apparatus as claimed.

Claims 2-4, 7 and 8 are allowed due to dependency on claims 1 and 6 respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

JP 08-293159) to Matsumoto discloses a recorder.

US 6,748,085 to Yang discloses a computer system with a common audio input for its audio circuitry.

US 6,711,268 to Colegrave et al. an automatic stereo/monaural headphone.

US 5,655,025 to Kim et al. discloses a circuit for automatically recognizing and receiving mono and stereo audio signals.

US 5,642,424 to Masaki discloses a device for connecting external sound generator.

US 6,594,366 to Adams discloses a headset/radio auto sensing jack.

US 4,433,209 to Kurosawa et al. discloses a stereo/monaural selecting circuit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848.

The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2615. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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